

HOUSE BILL 2545

By Alexander

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 63,  
relative to medication aides.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 63-7-127(e), is amended by deleting the subsection and substituting:

(e) To be eligible to receive a medication aide certificate, an applicant must:

- (1) Be at least eighteen (18) years of age;
- (2) Have completed the twelfth grade or its equivalent, or have successfully passed the test for and received a general equivalency diploma;
- (3) Be a nurse aide, duly certified under the standards established under federal law and title 68, chapter 11, part 2, or an occupational therapy assistant licensed pursuant to the Occupational and Physical Therapy Practice Act, compiled in chapter 13 of this title;
- (4) Have practiced continuously as a certified nurse aide or a licensed occupational therapy assistant for at least one (1) year in a nursing home, assisted-care living facility, or a PACE as defined in § 56-2-121;
- (5) Have a recommendation from a facility where the individual is employed or contracted;
- (6) Have successfully completed a course of instruction provided by a training program approved by the board under subsection (j); and
- (7) Have passed a standardized examination.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 63-7-127(i)(2)(A), is amended by deleting the subdivision and substituting:

(A) At least sixty (60) hours of instruction, consisting of forty (40) classroom hours and twenty (20) clinical hours. The board shall determine the standard minimum curriculum, which must:

(i) Include appropriate instruction to enable communication, attention to safety, knowledge of medications, and other factors as determined necessary by the board; and

(ii) Be completed either in person or through distance learning; and

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 63-7-127(j)(1)(D), is amended by deleting the language "eighty-five percent (85%)" and substituting the language "seventy-five percent (75%)".

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 63-7-127(i)(2), is amended by deleting the language "subdivision (i)(1)" and substituting the language "subdivision (j)(1)".

SECTION 5. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 63-7-127(j), is amended by deleting the language "subsection (i)" in subdivision (1)(E) and substituting the language "subsection (j)"; and by deleting the language "subsection (j)" in subdivision (2) and substituting the language "subsection (k)".

SECTION 6. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 63-7-127(k), is amended by deleting the language "subdivision (k)(3)" in subdivision (1)(A) and substituting the language "subdivision (l)(3)"; and by deleting the language "subdivision (k)(2)(A) or (k)(2)(B)" in subdivision (k)(2)(C) and substituting the language "subdivision (l)(2)(A) or (l)(2)(B)".

SECTION 7. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 63-7-127, is amended by inserting the following as a new subsection (g), and redesignating existing subsection (g) and subsequent subsections accordingly:

(g) A graduate of a registered or practical nursing program may, prior to receiving authorization to take the NCLEX-RN or NCLEX-PN exam, perform the duties of a medication aide under this chapter without completing a training program described in subsection (j), if the graduate:

- (1) Submits an application to the board as outlined in subsection (d);
- (2) Provides to the board evidence of meeting the requirements of subdivisions (e)(1), (2), and (7); and
- (3) Is not otherwise disqualified under subsection (i).

SECTION 8. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.